such a way that storage losses are minimized to the extent possible. To this end, foodgrains are periodically inspected, pest control measures undertaken, prophylactic and curative steps taken, first in first out (FIFO) principle followed and godowns regularly repaired and maintained. Adequate infrastructure exists for the purpose.

Meningococcemia in Delhi

*520. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national capital has been in the grip of meningococcemia, the killer disease;

(b) if so, the number of suspected cases tested positive for the disease till now by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases;

(c) the steps taken by Government to contain and prevent the disease spreading in other States;

(d) whether adequate quantity of medicines is available; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to meet the requirement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAM DOSS): (a) to (c) Meningococcal disease is an epidemic prone communicable disease and it shows cyclic spurt/rise in cases every 15-20 years. The number of cases of Meningococcal disease and deaths reported in Delhi during this year till date are 234 and 22 respectively. A total of 191 samples have tested positive out of 884 clinical samples tested by National Institute of Communicable Diseases during this year till now.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to prevent the disease and to provide the required facilities. Regular monitoring of the Meningococcemia disease is still being continued by the State Governments. MCD made notification of the disease mandatory. Efforts were made for early diagnosis and prompt treatment; contact tracking of the patients and providing chemoprophylaxis. IEC activities were carried out with the participation of the community. A control Room was set up at National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) to receive samples from hospitals and to monitor and review the situation. Technical guidelines to prevent and control meningococcal discare were circulated by NICD to

all neighbouring States. Training and laboratory support was given to all hospitals. The situation is under control now.

No shortage of medicine, including Meningitis vaccine has been reported from Delhi. The vaccine is presently manufactured locally as well as imported into the country.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Farmers Trained by CTRI

3641. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers trained by Central Tobacco Research Institute during the last year;

(b) whether CTRI has given any importance to training of farmers of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that the CTRI has not given sufficient importance to extending the full benefits or research in tobacco to middle level tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the steps proposed by Government to assist farmers through the CTRI in 2006-07; and

(e) the reasons for low emphasis on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A total of 3,937 farmers were trained by Central Tobacco Research Institute during 2005-06.

(b) Yes, Sir. A total of 91 tobacco training programmes were organized by CTRI and its Research Stations in Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06.

(c) No. Sir. Sufficient importance has been given to middle level farmers in Andhra Pradesh to extent the benefits of research conducted by CTRI. The farmers have been provided seed of improved varieties and training in crop management technologies. In addition, frontline demonstrations, radio talks, exhibitions and Kisan Melas were also conducted during the year 2005-06.